S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

3864

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

January 28, 2011

Introduced by M. of A. ENGLEBRIGHT -- read once and referred to the Committee on Aging

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to services for persons with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Legislative findings and intent. The legislature hereby finds and declares that Alzheimer's disease and other dementias represent a public health crisis in New York state. In nineteen hundred ninety-two the legislature established the task force on Alzheimer's disease and other dementias to identify priorities, policy alternatives and emerging issues with respect to caregivers and individuals with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. As of 2007 it was estimated that approximately five hundred thousand New York residents suffered from Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. By the year 2050 it is estimated that approximately one million five hundred thousand New Yorkers will develop this ailment. During the next decade, the oldest segment of New York state's population will account for over forty percent of all persons with dementia and these persons will require a wide array of services. Thus the urgency has increased for developing and implementing comprehensive public health and social services initiatives to help persons with dementia and their caregivers.

The legislature therefore establishes the state level coordinating council for services related to Alzheimer's disease and other dementias to oversee implementation of the recommendations of the coordinating council which shall include the development of a comprehensive state plan of action that will ensure coordination of public-private efforts to meet the needs of individuals with these dementias, their families and the professionals and services that support them.

S 2. The article heading of article 20 of the public health law, as added by chapter 738 of the laws of 1986, is amended to read as follows:

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.

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[REPORTING OF] SERVICES FOR ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND RELATED DEMENTIAS

S 3. Subdivision 2 of section 2003 of the public health law, as added by chapter 738 of the laws of 1986, is amended to read as follows:

2. Notwithstanding any inconsistent provision of law, all information collected pursuant to this article shall be confidential insofar as the identity of the individual patient is concerned and shall be used solely for the purposes as provided in this article. Access to the information shall be limited to the authorized employees of the department and persons with a valid scientific interest and qualifications, as defined by the commissioner, INCLUDING THE MEMBERS OF THE COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR SERVICES RELATED TO ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND OTHER DEMENTIAS ESTABLISHED BY SECTION TWO THOUSAND FOUR-A OF THIS ARTICLE, who are engaged in demographic, epidemiological or other similar studies related to health, and who agree, in writing, to maintain confidentiality as established by the commissioner.

S 4. This act shall take effect immediately.